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Note by the Secretary-General*

Addendum

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* The present document was submitted late because the exchange of correspondence with non-governmental organizations to obtain clear and complete applications took longer than anticipated.

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1. Amnesty International

Consultative status granted in 1964

Founded in 1961, Amnesty International (AI) is a Nobel Peace Prize-winning activist organization with more than 1 million members worldwide. AI is impartial, independent of any Government, political persuasion or religious creed. It does not support or oppose any Government or political system.

AI's vision is of a world in which every person enjoys all the human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights standards. AI's mission is to undertake research and action to prevent and end grave abuses of the rights to physical and mental integrity, freedom of conscience and expression, and freedom from discrimination. In that context, the organization:

- seeks the release of prisoners of conscience
- works for fair and prompt trials for political prisoners
- works to abolish the death penalty and torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment
- campaigns against political killings, "disappearances" and unlawful killings in armed conflict as well as against abuses committed by armed political groups
- undertakes a range of other activities for the promotion and protection of all human rights.

AI is financed by subscriptions from its membership in more than 150 countries and by its own fund-raising activities. No funds are sought or accepted from Governments for AI's work of investigating and campaigning against human rights violations.

AI maintained its representational offices at the United Nations in New York and Geneva. It participated actively each year in meetings of United Nations bodies, including the General Assembly and its various Committees, the Commission on Human Rights and its Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on the Status of Women. AI took an active role in the meetings of the preparatory committee to establish the Statute of the International Criminal Court (Rome Statute) and has regularly attended meetings of and made statements to the Human Rights Committee and the Committee against Torture.

Through its involvement in various intergovernmental forums and meetings, AI has actively encouraged the development of improved legal standards. Our organization has worked for strong optional protocols to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Apart from its work for the adoption of the Rome Statute, AI also worked for the creation of the Declaration on the Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups, and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (Declaration on Human Rights Defenders) and a convention against "disappearances".

Convinced that close scrutiny by the international community will help prevent and halt human rights abuses, AI worked in the Commission on Human Rights and in the various committees of the General Assembly to monitor adherence to international standards and to help ensure that appropriate resolutions on country and thematic concerns were adopted. The organization also submitted proposals to enhance the effectiveness of the country and thematic mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights and regularly provided information to various thematic mechanisms of the Commission on Human Rights, including to its Working Groups on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances and on Arbitrary Detention, as well as to the Commission's Special Rapporteurs on torture and on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, in order to promote the effectiveness of these mechanisms to ensure substantive action on behalf of victims of human rights violations.

In September 1997, the Secretary General of AI addressed the members of the Security Council on the importance of human rights in the promotion of peace and security. In October of the following year, the Secretary General discussed with the United Nations Deputy Secretary-General the integration of human rights into all United Nations work, as set out in the United Nations Secretary-General's reform package.

Publications of direct relevance to the work of the United Nations include annual reports on the Commission on Human Rights, for example: "The Commission on Human Rights — 50 Years Old" (IOR 41/001/1997); "The International Criminal Court: Making the Right Choices — Parts I, II, III, IV, V and VI" (IOR 01/01/1997, IOR 40/011/1997, IOR 40/013/1997, IOR 40/004/1998 and IOR 40/010/1998); "The Optional Protocol to the Women's Convention: Enabling Women to Claim Their Rights at the International Level" (IOR 51/04/97); "Old enough to kill but too young to vote — draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict" (IOR 51/001/1998); "Agenda for a new United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights" (IOR 40/08/97); "Refugees: Human rights have no border" (ACT 34/003/1997); and "International Tribunal for Rwanda: Trials and Tribulations" (IOR 40/003/1998).

AI worked with the Security Council, urging Council members to consider human rights in taking decisions on themes and countries, including to establish effective human rights monitoring in specific country situations. The organization has also sought close collaboration with United Nations programmes and bodies and specialized agencies. In particular, AI encouraged the integration of human rights norms into the mandates and working methods of United Nations agencies. For example, AI worked to support and encourage the implementation by United Nations agencies of the recommendations contained in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, including by maintaining close contacts with UNHCR, UNICEF, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and UNDP. Another example was AI's work with UNICEF against the abduction of children from northern Uganda for use as soldiers by the Lord's Resistance Army.

AI's representatives maintained regular contact with officials of the Office of the Secretary-General, the Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. Our organization also maintained a close working relationship with the

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The Secretary General of AI met the Secretary-General of the United Nations several times to discuss issues of concern. All such contacts were aimed at promoting and integrating international human rights standards throughout the United Nations Secretariat.

In 1997 the International Council Meeting, the highest decision-making body of AI, reinforced its commitment to the organization's involvement with the United Nations, endorsing a resolution that increased the scope of the organization's work at the United Nations. AI looks forward to continued, close and supportive relationships with all relevant areas of the United Nations system.

2. Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Production of the Argentine Republic

Special consultative status granted in November 1996

Introduction

The Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Production of the Argentine Republic permanently supports the message of the United Nations by strongly working among its associates and with related organizations for non-violence, tolerance and solidarity. It has the firm conviction that only by fighting for and disseminating these principles will the desired sustainable development be achieved.

In the report submitted to the Economic and Social Council on 27 February 1998 the work performed during 1996-1997 was summarized and the reform of the institution's Social Statute was placed on record. In the new version, under article 2, clause 24, is added the commitment to disseminate and support with concrete actions the purposes consecrated in the Argentine National Constitution, the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other national and international instruments destined to eliminate any kind of discrimination, to promote the right to economic, social, cultural, educational and health-related sustainable development, to protect and conserve natural resources and environment, and to improve quality of life. These concepts incorporated in the Social Statute further strengthen the institution's commitment to the United Nations.

1998

- The close relationship with the United Nations and its various bodies was continued. This relationship was diversified in several directions.
- Several events were organized, at the Chamber headquarters, coinciding with the United Nations objectives.
- It participated through various representatives in several events planned by the United Nations or its agencies.
- The vast collection of published materials received from the United Nations was disseminated through various channels.

1. Events organized by the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Production of the Argentine Republic destined to disseminate United Nations objectives

1.1 Human rights for everybody

Because of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the proclamation of 1998 as Human Rights Year, the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Production of the Argentine Republic organized an important commemoration that was attended by a large audience. On that occasion, it was recalled that human rights are universal, indivisible and interdependent, that they are the basis of existence and of human coexistence, and that they are the principles on which human dignity is built. The panel organized on this occasion was made up of Ángel Escudero de Paz, Director of the United Nations Information Centre for Argentina and Uruguay; Ambassador Teresa González Fernández de Sola, Under-Secretary for Women of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship; María Arsenia Tula, President of the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Production of the Argentine Republic; and Cristina Minutolo de Orsi, Director of the Chamber's Department for Women. Among those attending, were ambassadors, presidents and directors of scientific, cultural and entrepreneurial organizations, and special guests. The press reported on this celebration. The Director of the United Nations Information Centre summarized the United Nations work from the time of its founding, emphasizing its special contribution to human rights, in which the audience was keenly interested. The Under-Secretary of the Department for Women of the Argentine Foreign Ministry made a special reference to the United Nations contribution to women's issues and their rights and needs, using important documents published by the United Nations. The institution's President and the Director of its Department for Women spoke about the Chamber's specific work in relation to the subject and policies in relation to women.

1.2. International Year of the Ocean

Taking into account that on 10 December 1997 the General Assembly of the United Nations proclaimed 1998 the International Year of the Ocean, the institution organized a special celebration in relation to this topic. The event was held on 21 October, at its headquarters. The gathering was organized by the institution's Department of Environment. The panel was made up of Javier Corcuera Ibáñez and Margarita Drago Rey. The audience listened with special interest to the various speakers, who used United Nations documents.

1.3 Participation of the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Production of the Argentine Republic in meetings planned by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization

The institution actively participated in the design of an integrated programme for the promotion and improvement of women's participation in the Argentine manufacturing sector. The gathering was planned by Klaus Billand of UNIDO and Mercedes Muro de Nadal de Avogadro. President María Arsenia Tula actively participated in the programme's design.

1.4 Workshops organized by UNIDO and the Foreign Ministry within the programme "Women-Industry for Argentina"

The Chamber participated in two workshops, on 16 and 20 October, related to the subject. The second was called "Subregional workshop on an integrated programme to promote and improve women's participation in the manufacturing sector of the MERCOSUR subregion". Both workshops were aimed at implementing joint actions to improve women's participation in diverse areas.

1.5 First annual DPI/NGO Conference

It was held on 14-16 September 1998 at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The institution was represented by Irene Malup.

1.6 Dissemination of the material coming from various United Nations bodies

Material is received from, among others, the International Trade Centre, UNCTAD/WTO, ECLAC, the International Trade Forum, Women 2000, etc. This material, besides enriching the institution's library, is also disseminated through us to various centres, chambers, organizations, etc. Our Bulletin contains a page on this subject.

1999

1999, from the institutional point of view, was a year of great fulfilment. The institution's image grew, as well as recognition of its work in the country and overseas. But it was also a difficult year that demanded great efforts, good will and sacrifice to consolidate the achievements attained.

1. Activities were planned related to the United Nations basic objectives. The topics covered included peace and security, economic and social development, women's integration in the world and academic and cultural affairs.

2. Numerous United Nations publications were received and disseminated through different channels, among others the publication entitled "Multilateral cooperation in Argentina", published by UNIDO.

3. The Chamber's Bulletin devoted, as usual, a page to comments on activities related to the United Nations and its publications.

4. The Chamber participated in various annual conferences held at United Nations Headquarters in New York, one of them being "Meeting the challenge of a globalized world", in which we were represented by Girgen Feray.

5. Several forums were organized at the Chamber's headquarters to analyse important United Nations documents. One was to comment on the speech made by the United Nations Secretary-General to the World Economic Forum, and another was to analyse the annual report of the Secretary-General.

6. Several Chamber representatives attended the speech given in Buenos Aires by the United Nations Secretary-General at the Centre for International Relations. The speech was published in the Chamber's Bulletin.

7. Various Chamber Departments promoted United Nations objectives, including the Department for Women and the Department of Environment, through

participation in various events and the dissemination of concepts contained in United Nations publications.

8. Circulars are prepared to accompany the material received from the United Nations and are distributed among our associates.

3. Comunicación Cultural

Special consultative status granted in 1996

Comunicación Cultural was founded in 1973 as a non-governmental organization in Mexico City. Since 1996 it has had special consultative status (formerly category II) with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and has been associated with the Department of Public Information. It has also had correspondent status with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) since 1989. Comunicación Cultural has worked for the last 20 years in the promotion of children's rights through mass media. All activities of the organization are promoted around the country.

After one of its campaigns related to health, Comunicación Cultural founded in 1985 the Burned Children's Institute. Today, Comunicación Cultural supports the Institute with the design and promotion of prevention campaigns and mass media publications, such as brochures and posters.

Additionally, it has participated in communication projects to prevent the mistreatment of children, including street children, and the commercial sexual exploitation of children in trafficking, prostitution and pornography.

1996 activities

- In August Erika Hunni, Soroptimist member and volunteer for Comunicación Cultural, visited our headquarters and later promoted in Europe the work of Comunicación Cultural.
- In September Lilia Cisneros Luján, Executive President of Comunicación Cultural, participated in the forty-ninth annual gathering of non-governmental organizations in New York.
- In November Comunicación Cultural received special consultative status (formerly category II) with the Economic and Social Council, and the representative in New York was appointed.
- Also in November Lilia Cisneros participated in the World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, held in Stockholm. She both represented Comunicación Cultural and worked with the official Mexican delegation. During the Congress Comunicación Cultural took active part in the promotion of defending the rights of street children.
- The organization continued the publication of the bimonthly bulletin "My Friend and I", whose main objective is to provide information on the activities of Comunicación Cultural. The bulletin helps Comunicación Cultural not only to inform people about our activities but also to promote and provide information about the programmes of the United Nations. Articles on a range of subjects were published.

- Comunicación Cultural continued to give support to the children and families supported by the Burned Children's Institute. The DEMOS Foundation supported Comunicación Cultural with a yearly donation of $2,000 to implement an ongoing campaign to prevent children from being burned. Three other campaigns were also produced.
- Following the success of the prevention campaign, the DEMOS Foundation sponsored, together with Comunicación Cultural, the radio programme "Talking about children".
- The scholarship programme to help students with their studies continued. The scholarship consists of a monthly amount to help youths who work on a volunteer basis at Comunicación Cultural.

1997 activities

- Maritza Arciniega was appointed main representative in New York and Kyra Núñez Johnson in Geneva.
- The bulletin "My Friend and I" published articles on a range of subjects.
- Two persons were awarded scholarships: Héctor Arturo Magaña Zamora and Juan Rivera Florentino, who studied design and international relations, respectively.

1998 activities

- In February Comunicación Cultural started an Internet page, designed by César Rodrigo Coello, journalism student.
- In September Elizabeth Coronado, Ana Karina Arroyo and Xochitl Pimienta participated in the fifty-first annual gathering of non-governmental organizations in New York.
- Shamina Gonzaga de Kazan was appointed Department of Public Information representative by Comunicación Cultural.
- The bulletin "My Friend and I" published articles on a range of subjects.
- Comunicación Cultural started two projects related to children and their rights with TV Azteca and the Technological Institute of Monterrey.

1999 activities

- Because of lack of economic resources, Comunicación Cultural had to cancel the publication of "My Friend and I". However, it was published on our Internet page at a lower cost.
- Comunicación Cultural carried out a new media campaign on burn prevention for the Burned Children's Institute.
- The scholarship programme had to be cancelled because of lack of economic resources.

4. Federación de Asociaciones de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos

Special consultative status granted in 1996

Brief introduction to the Federation's objectives

The Federation is a non-profit nationwide organization that does not rely on the Government. It was created in 1989, with the purpose of bringing together Spanish organizations that have similar goals in the area of protecting human rights. With this in mind, the Federation has grown greatly in its membership. The Federation achieved special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council in November 1996 and expanded the scope of its work in Latin America, Africa and Asia.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council

1. Human Rights Committee

Even though the Federation has participated in this Committee since the fifty-second session (1996), it was not until the following year that it participated as an NGO in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. In all the meetings, the Federation actively participated in connection with various issues of special interest (children's rights, impunity, the International Court of Justice, Colombia, Western Sahara, Palestine, East Timor, the Philippines, development rights, etc.). The Federation has sponsored, with other organizations, round tables; has participated in special-interest round tables; and has created and strengthened working relations with many organizations abroad.

2. Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights

The Federation participated in the subcommittee meetings on protecting minorities from discrimination at the fifty-first session by speaking on the human rights situation and the self-determination referendum under the Western Sahara peace plan. The Federation also spoke on the conditions of security and liberty for the people of East Timor in their referendum.

3. Other conferences

Since September 1999 the Federation has had a permanent representative in New York and another in Vienna, who began the work of defining ways in which the Federation can participate more actively in United Nations meetings and conferences.

Most important activities

1. Spanish commission for human rights

Bearing in mind the United Nations interest in creating and strengthening national institutions for promoting and protecting human rights, since 1996, the Federation has sponsored, through its reports and paperwork, and with advice from

United Nations experts, the creation of a Spanish commission for human rights. After working on a draft of the statute, the Federation submitted it and held various working meetings with accredited authorities, prestigious jurists and lawyers, institutions and well-known organizations from civil society. The intention was to validate and get support for the proposal.

2. Seminars and meetings

The Federation organized various meetings, seminars and courses intended to inform and raise awareness on various issues of special interest for the defence and protection of human rights. On that front it has worked very closely with the United Nations Information Centre in Spain.

- 1996: consciousness-raising campaign involving the Spanish Government on decolonization in Western Sahara
- November 1997: international meeting on women's human rights in Judaism, Christianity and Islam
- December 1997: along with labour and other groups the Federation convoked a seminar on peace and human rights in Colombia
- 1997-1998: the Federation organized, together with Madrid's Universidad Complutense, two summer courses on human rights topics in San Lorenzo del Escorial
- 1998-1999: consciousness-raising campaign on the International Court of Justice involving seminars, meetings, conferences, articles, etc.
- Every year we have organized various activities for the observation of Human Rights Day, together with the United Nations Information Centre, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Human Rights Office and the Ombudsman.

Human rights projects

The Federation made the decision in June 1996 to increase and diversify its range of projects for promoting and defending human rights. The Federation felt pushed by the need to provide responses to some counterparts, specifically from Latin America, in the human rights field as an essential part of development cooperation.

Concerning the subject of dealing with the public administration, the Federation encountered many difficulties because of the lack of specific human rights lines and the lack of knowledge and expertise on the part of the people who were supposed to approve the projects.

We would like to emphasize the project approved by the Castilla-La Mancha Government for creating a virtual centre for human rights as an integrated information and communication system on the Internet. The project is based on United Nations guidelines for education and consciousness-raising to promote new values, liberty and rights, expanding and deepening the democratic culture and global ethics demanded by the present situation (http://www.eurosur.org/fddhh).

Response to human rights violations

Without going into details of the actions undertaken, the Federation has responded to specific violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in the world, using various international instruments for the defence and protection of human rights, as well as United Nations resolutions. The Federation has especially followed the situations in Western Sahara, East Timor, Colombia, the Philippines, Central America, Mexico and Peru, and certain issues such as impunity, terrorism, the International Court of Justice and children's, women's and minority rights.

World Conference on Human Rights: our approach

Bearing in mind the importance of the Vienna outcome documents, the Federation established in 1996 a field of systematic activity concerning aspects related to human rights education through actions leading to programmes on the issue.

Participation in international missions

Miguel Ángel Sánchez, Vice-President and General Secretary of Justicia y Paz, participated on behalf of the Federation in the meetings on the subject "Barrancabermeja Clama Justicia" (Colombia, May 1999).

Publications

In 1996 we published the speeches given at the meeting for studying the future of the United Nations after its fiftieth anniversary from a human rights perspective, showing the rich and enlightening content of the meeting, held the previous year. In 1998 we published a human rights declaration from a gender perspective of genre, in collaboration wth a women's organization.

Relations with NGOs from Latin America and Africa

The Federation has a strong commitment to its relationship with some organizations from Latin America and some African and Asian countries, whose representatives visited Spain. These organizations travel from time to time around Europe seeking financial aid for their projects and support for matters related to the defence of human rights.

5. Fondazione Giovanni e Francesca Falcone

Consultative status granted in 1996

Fondazione Giovanni e Francesca Falcone was constituted in Palermo on 10 December 1992. In 1993 the Italian Government recognized the foundation as a not-for-profit institution devoted to social purposes.

Aims

According to its statute, the principal aim of the foundation is to implement initiatives of social interest, such as the promotion of study, research and cultural and assistance activities, in order to promote the development of the anti-Mafia culture in society, and in particular among young people, as well as the promotion of professional specialization in the investigative and judicial apparatuses committed to the prevention of and fight against organized crime. In the social and cultural commitment of the foundation, special attention is given to the pedagogical and educational problems of youth through social and cultural initiatives.

Another aim is to spur integration and cooperation among the European and the international judicial system for more effective coordination among all States and the agencies concerned with the prevention and suppression of organized crime.

These aims are addressed by:

- organizing meetings, seminars, training and educational courses
- preparing, commissioning, printing, editing and disseminating research and study publications
- establishing scholarships
- participating in other Italian or foreign foundations or associations with similar aims.

Since 1992 the foundation has carried out many activities that have contributed to the enhancement of its national and international reputation.

Meetings, seminars, training and educational courses

Every year the foundation organizes meetings with the participation of Italian and foreign experts in organized crime, politicians and State representatives. From 1994 to 2000, 10 such meetings were held in Palermo.

The foundation is also committed to the promotion of anti-Mafia culture in our society, through activities (meetings, conferences and lectures) for elementary, high school and university students in Italy and abroad.

Publications

The foundation published books by and about Judge Giovanni Falcone and his family and about the Mafia.

Scholarships

The foundation grants 10 scholarships each year to young Sicilian law graduates. These scholarships are utilized for studies and research on organized crime, to develop an anti-Mafia culture and to contribute to the prevention of and fight against organized crime. To date the foundation has carried out 42 research projects.

Organization

The Fondazione Giovanni e Francesca Falcone is organized as follows:

(a) General Council — 32 members;

(b) President — Maria Falcone;

(c) Secretaries-General — Liliana Ferraro and Giannicola Sinisi;

(d) College of auditors of accounts — three members.

Affiliation with international NGOs in consultative status

The foundation has no affiliation with any non-governmental organization already in status.

Participation in United Nations meetings and collaboration with United Nations bodies

In 1997 (6-8 April) the foundation, thanks to the contribution of Giorgio Giacomelli, Director General of the United Nations Office at Vienna, organized and hosted an informal meeting on the question of the elaboration of an international convention against organized transnational crime.

Other relevant activities

The members of the foundation also took part in several international meetings — in Brazil, Germany and Italy — on organized crime and on education. During the meetings, the foundation took the opportunity to stress the importance of the commitment of all persons involved in United Nations bodies and agencies to fighting international organized crime, improving the culture of legality and promoting respect for human rights.